

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 CU-02 SY-05 USSS-00 /035 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2033

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 10548

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CI

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF EX-PRESIDENT EDUARDO FREI

1. A SENIOR CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT (PDC) IN THE ENTOURAGE OF EX-PRESIDENT FREI TOLD US NOVEMBER 2 THAT FREI WILL BE LEAVING NOVEMBER 4 FOR A MONTH IN THE U.S. HE WILL ATTEND A SEMINAR IN ATLANTA AND THEN VISIT HIS DAUGHTER AND HER FAMILY IN NEW YORK.

2. THE PDC SOURCE SAID THAT LAST WEEK PARTY VICE-PRESIDENT OLGUIN WAS CALLED BY INTERIOR MINISTER BENAVIDES, WHO SUGGESTED TO HIM THAT FREI NOT VISIT ECUADOR AND COSTA RICA. THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT THE GOC WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GUARANTEE FREI'S SECURITY SHOULD HE VISIT THOSE COUNTRIES. THE PDC LEADER SAID THE PARTY WAS NOT SURE WHETHER BENAVIDES' WORDS WERE A THREAT OR MERELY A WARNING FOR FREI -- IN THE WAKE OF THE LETELIER KILLING -- TO TAKE SUCH MEASURES OF SECURITY AS HE CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE HIMSELF.

2. THE SOURCE CONTINUED THAT OLGUIN TOLD BENAVIDES THAT FREI WOULD NOT BE TRAVELING TO ECUADOR OR COSTA RICA BUT WOULD BE GOING TO THE U.S. BENAVIDES REPORTEDLY COMMENTED THAT IN THAT CASE THE GOC WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE USG PROVIDE APPROPRIATE SECURITY FOR FREI. THE PDC LEADER TOLD US THAT THE PDC WANTED US TO KNOW, IN CASE THE GOC APPROACHED US, THAT THE INITIATIVE WAS FROM THE GOC AND NOT THE PARTY.

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3. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOT BEEN APPROACHED BY THE GOC ON THIS

SUBJECT. THE PDC LEADER APPEARED MILDLY CONCERNED ABOUT
THE CONVERSATION, BUT DID NOT SUGGEST IN ANY WAY THAT WE
PROVIDE SECURITY FOR FREI.
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